

## AMERICAN TRAVEL SURVEY

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Travel profile

# Long-distance leisure travel in the United States

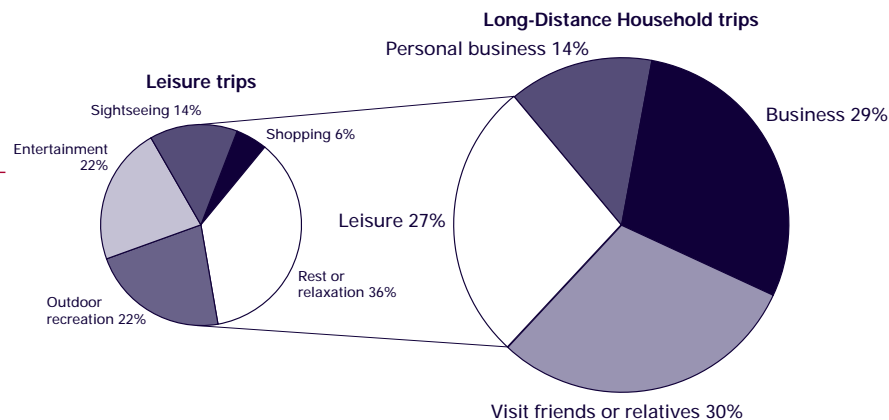
The American Travel Survey estimates that, whether traveling for business, leisure, to visit friends or relatives, or personal business, Americans logged nearly 827 billion long-distance travel-miles while completing 656 million household trips in 1995.<sup>1</sup> This profile examines the frequency and characteristics of U.S. leisure travel, which accounted for 27 percent of these household trips. By comparison, about 30 percent of long-distance household trips were to visit friends and relatives, 29 percent were for business, and 14 percent were for personal business.

As shown in figure 1, when broken out by type of leisure trip, households traveling for *rest or relaxation* made 37 percent of these trips, followed by households seeking *outdoor recreation* and *entertainment*—both at about 22 percent. The balance of leisure trips was for *sightseeing*, at 14 percent, and *shopping*, at 6 percent.

<sup>1</sup> A trip is defined as roundtrip travel to a destination at least 100 miles from home.

**FIGURE 1**  
**Leisure Trips as a Subset**  
**of All Long-Distance**  
**Household Trips**

Source  
 US Department of  
 Transportation  
 Bureau of  
 Transportation Statistics  
 1995 American Travel  
 Survey data



### Personal-use vehicles dominate leisure travel

Eighty-two percent of leisure trips were made in personal-use vehicles (PUVs); similar percentages of PUV use were reported for trips to visit friends or relatives and personal business trips. In contrast, only 65 percent of business trips were by personal vehicle in 1995.

Trips for shopping or outdoor recreation were more likely to be taken by PUV, 94 and 90 percent respectively, than were trips for other leisure purposes. PUVs were used for about three-quarters of both household sightseeing and entertainment trips and 86 percent of rest or relaxation trips.

### Leisure trips are less likely to be made by airplane

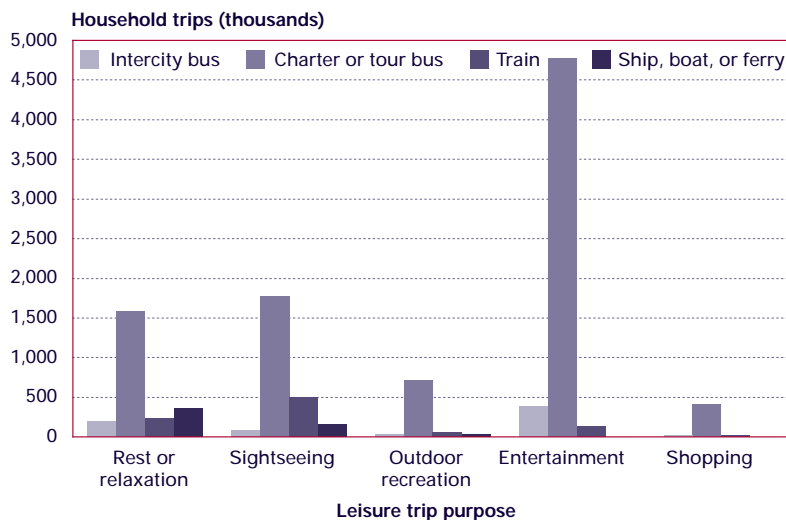
Less than 12 percent of leisure trips were made by commercial air transportation, compared to 32 percent of business trips and 16 percent of trips to visit friends and relatives. Trips taken for sightseeing purposes were more likely than other leisure

trips to be made by commercial airplane. Over 17 percent of sightseeing trips were made by commercial air as compared to 14 percent of rest or relaxation trips, 13 percent of entertainment trips, 7 percent of outdoor recreation trips, and 3 percent of shopping trips.

### Over 8 million leisure trips were made by charter or tour bus

Leisure trips were more likely to be taken on charter or tour buses than were trips for other purposes. Over 4 percent of leisure household trips were made by charter or tour bus in 1995, equating to more than 8 million trips. Less than 1 percent of business trips and trips to visit friends and relatives were made by this mode. With 10 and 6 percent respectively, entertainment trips and sightseeing trips were more likely than leisure trips for other purposes to be taken by charter or tour bus (see figure 2).

**NOTE**  
 See selected trip  
 characteristics  
 in the  
 accompanying  
 tables starting  
 on page 10.



**FIGURE 2**  
Leisure Trips by  
Selected Mode

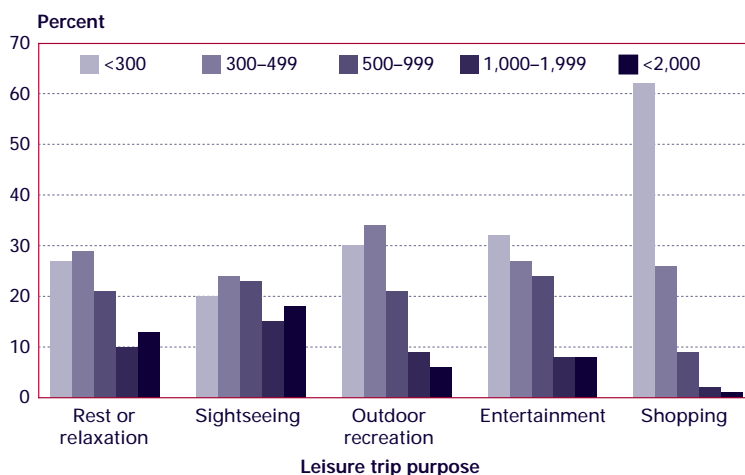
**Source**  
US Department of  
Transportation  
Bureau of  
Transportation Statistics  
1995 American Travel  
Survey data

### Leisure trips average over 800 miles

Ranked by mileage, leisure trips fall in the middle range of household trips, with an average roundtrip distance of 823 miles. Personal business trips were the shortest—averaging 776 miles roundtrip, and business trips and trips to visit friends or relatives were the longest—averaging 964 and 858 miles roundtrip, respectively.

### Sightseers travel the farthest

The average roundtrip distance varied greatly by type of trip within the leisure category. Sightseeing trips were the longest, with an average roundtrip distance of 1,200 miles. The average roundtrip distance was 902 miles for rest or relaxation, 746 miles for entertainment, 662 miles for outdoor recreation, and 362 miles for shopping.



**FIGURE 3**  
Leisure Trips by  
Roundtrip Distance

**Source**  
US Department of  
Transportation  
Bureau of  
Transportation Statistics  
1995 American Travel  
Survey data

Figure 3 shows that about 18 percent of sightseeing trips had a roundtrip distance of 2,000 miles or more, while only 13 percent of trips for rest or relaxation, 6 percent of outdoor recreation trips, 8 percent of entertainment trips, and 1 percent of shopping trips were in this distance category. In comparison to sightseeing trips, only 13 percent of business trips, 9 percent of trips to visit friends or relatives, and 9 percent of personal business trips were this long.

More than 60 percent of household shopping trips were less than 300 miles roundtrip. The average roundtrip distance, however, was 362 miles, due to a small percentage (11 percent) of shopping trips in excess of 500 miles. In comparison, 32 percent of entertainment trips, 30 percent of outdoor recreation trips, 27 percent of trips for rest or relaxation, and 20 percent of sightseeing trips were less than 300 miles.

#### **Households traveling for leisure average over three nights away from home**

Households on leisure trips spent an average of 3.3 nights away from home, slightly less than those on trips to visit friends or relatives (3.7 nights). The length of stay for household business trips was the lowest, averaging 2.7 nights. In comparison, the length of stay for households on personal business was the highest, averaging 4.0 nights.

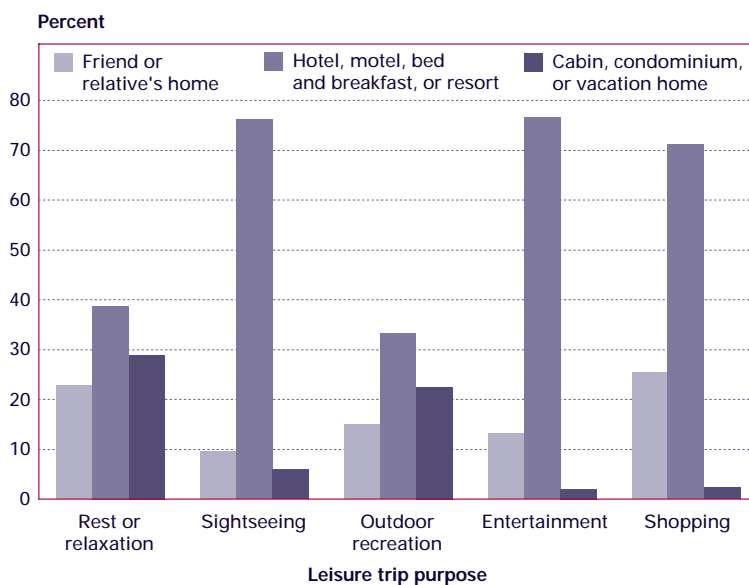
Households on trips for rest and relaxation tend to spend more nights away

from home, on average, than households traveling for other leisure purposes. These trips averaged 4.8 nights, compared with 3.1 nights for sightseeing, 3.0 nights for outdoor recreation, 1.9 nights for entertainment, and 0.6 nights for shopping.

#### **Half of households traveling for leisure stay at hotels, motels, or resorts**

In 1995, about half of the households on leisure trips stayed at hotels, motels, or resorts. Over three-quarters of households on sightseeing, shopping, and entertainment trips stayed in this type of accommodation, while households on outdoor recreation or rest or relaxation trips were much more diverse in their choice of lodging (see figure 4). Data show that about one-third of households on outdoor recreation or rest or relaxation trips (33 and 39 percent, respectively) stayed at hotels, motels, or resorts. For the remaining two-thirds, choice of lodging was more evenly distributed among rented or owned cabins, villas, or vacation homes and campers, trailers, or recreational vehicles.

Comparing accommodations for trips other than leisure, households on business trips tended to stay at hotels, motels, or resorts (over 77 percent) while this type of lodging was used for only 9 percent of household trips to visit friends or relatives and 35 percent of trips for personal business.



**FIGURE 4**  
Leisure Trip Purpose  
by Lodging Choice

**Source**  
US Department of  
Transportation  
Bureau of  
Transportation Statistics  
1995 American Travel  
Survey data

About 19 percent of households on leisure trips stayed in rented or owned cabins, condominiums, or vacation homes at the destination, with 9 percent renting and 10 percent owning these accommodations. However, only 2 percent of households on trips to visit friends or relatives, 4 percent of households on business, and 7 percent of households on personal business stayed in rented or owned cabins, condominiums, or vacation homes at their destination.

#### Few take leisure trips alone

Only a small percentage (14 percent) of leisure trips comprised individuals traveling alone (see figure 5). Business trips had the largest proportion of solo travelers, at 65 percent, followed by trips to visit friends or relatives, at 35 percent, and personal business trips, at 30 percent.

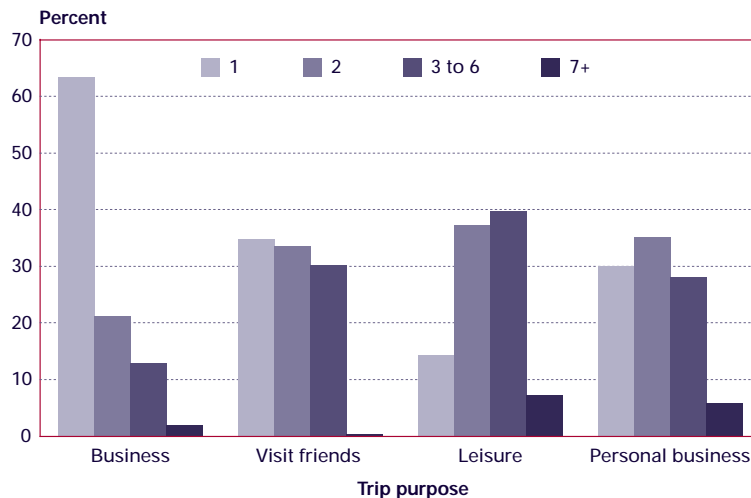
The average size of the travel party on leisure trips in 1995 was 3.9 persons, slightly higher than for trips for any other purpose. In comparison, average travel party sizes were 3.3 persons for personal business trips, 2.3 persons for trips to visit friends or relatives, and only 1.9 persons for business trips. Larger party size may be one reason for the less frequent use of commercial air for leisure trips.

Within the leisure category, the average travel party sizes for entertainment trips and sightseeing trips were the largest at about 4.7 and 4.4 persons, respectively.<sup>2</sup> Leisure trips for rest or relaxation, outdoor recreation, and shopping had average party sizes of 3.3, 3.8, and 3.2, respectively.

<sup>2</sup> These numbers are statistically equivalent.

**FIGURE 5**  
**Trip Purpose by**  
**Travel Party Size**

**Source**  
US Department of  
Transportation  
Bureau of  
Transportation Statistics  
1995 American Travel  
Survey data



#### **Outdoor recreation trips are more likely to be taken by men**

Overall, women and men were fairly similar in the number of leisure trips they took in 1995. The only significant gender differences in leisure travel lie with outdoor recreation and shopping trips: only 6 percent of leisure trips are for shopping, but about 60 percent of them were made by women; over 22 percent of leisure trips are for outdoor recreation, but about 64 percent of them were made by men.<sup>3</sup>

#### **Leisure travel is concentrated in the third quarter**

In 1995, over 36 percent of leisure trips were taken in the third calendar quarter (July through September), while first quarter leisure travel was the weakest at about 16 percent. Leisure travel was split more evenly among the second and

fourth quarters—approximately 26 and 21 percent, respectively.

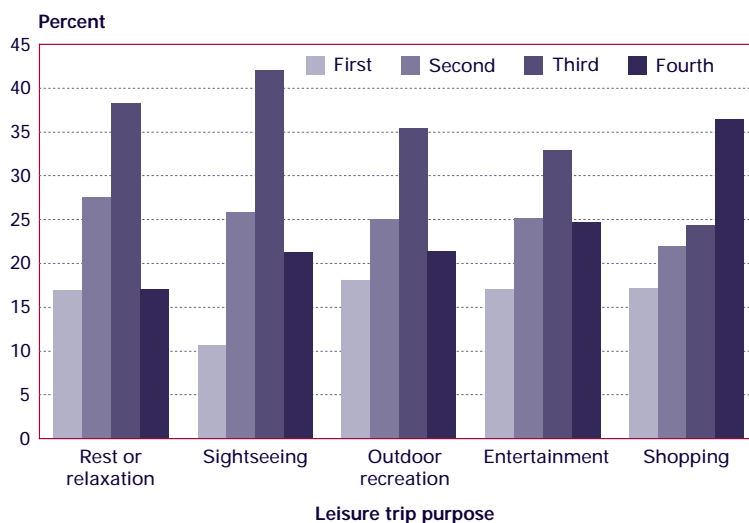
Sightseeing trips were the most seasonal compared with other leisure trips. As shown in figure 6, about 42 percent of sightseeing trips began in the third quarter compared with 38 percent of rest or relaxation trips, 36 percent of outdoor recreation trips, 33 percent of entertainment trips, and 24 percent of shopping trips.

#### **Leisure trips make up 43 percent of all trips abroad**

Approximately 2.8 million long-distance household trips were taken abroad in 1995. Of those, approximately 43 percent were for leisure, 27 percent were for business, 19 percent were trips to visit friends and relatives, and 11 percent were for personal business.

Leisure trips abroad were most likely to be for rest or relaxation (43 percent) and

<sup>3</sup> Additional data on other social and demographic characteristics can be found in the accompanying tables.



**FIGURE 6**  
Leisure Trip Purpose  
by Calendar Quarter

Source  
US Department of  
Transportation  
Bureau of  
Transportation Statistics  
1995 American Travel  
Survey data

sightseeing (37 percent). In comparison, 12 percent of leisure trips abroad were for outdoor recreation, 7 percent for entertainment, and only 1 percent for shopping.

#### Top destinations are diverse<sup>4</sup>

The top leisure destinations in 1995 were California and Florida. Data show that Michigan, Nevada, and Texas were other notable leisure destinations. California and Florida also top the list for sightseeing and for rest or relaxation trips; other destinations of choice included New York, Tennessee, and Texas.

Michigan, South Carolina, and Texas attracted many households for rest or relaxation. For outdoor recreation trips, California headed the list as the top destination, while Nevada topped the list for entertainment trips. Frequently chosen outdoor recreation states included Colorado, Florida, Michigan, and Texas. For entertainment trips, California, Florida, Missouri, and New Jersey were prime destinations. Although no state was the clear leader as a destination for shopping, Minnesota and Texas were two of the more commonly chosen long-distance destinations for this type of trip.▼

<sup>4</sup> Destinations in this section are unranked.

## TRAVEL PROFILE DEFINITIONS

### Bus trip

A trip in which the principal means of transportation is intercity bus, charter or tour bus, or school bus.

### Business trip

A trip taken for business or business combined with pleasure, or for attending a convention, conference, or seminar.

### Commercial airplane trip

A trip in which the principal means of transportation is commercial airplane—excludes corporate or personal airplane trips.

### Destination of trip

The place the survey respondent names as the destination of the trip. If more than one location is visited on the same trip, the farthest point from the origin is considered the destination.

### Household trip

A trip in which one or more members of a household travel together.

### Leisure trip

A trip taken for rest or relaxation, sightseeing, outdoor recreation, entertainment, or shopping.

### Lodging

One of 16 categories of lodging used by travelers as identified by survey respondents. Information gathered on lodging types was restricted to accommodations in which nights were spent at the trip destination.

### Main purpose of trip

The main factor motivating travel as defined by the survey respondent.

### Nights away from home

The number of nights spent away from home on one trip, including nights spent at the destination, on stops to and from the destination, and on side trips away from the destination.

### Person-miles

An estimate of the aggregate distances traveled by all persons on a given trip based on the estimated transportation-network-miles traveled on that trip.

### Person trip

A trip taken by an individual. (For example, if three persons from the same household travel together, the trip is counted as one household trip and three person trips.

### Personal business trip

A trip taken for a school-related activity or for personal or family business, including weddings and funerals.

### Personal-use vehicle trip

A trip in which the principle means of transportation is car, pickup truck, or van; other truck; rental car, truck, or van; recreational vehicle or motor home; or motorcycle or moped.

### Pleasure trip

A trip taken to visit friends or relatives or for leisure.



**Principle means of transportation**

The means of transportation used for most of the distance traveled from the origin to the destination.

**Roundtrip distance**

The estimated transportation-network-miles traveled from the household residence to the destination and back.

**Travel party size**

The total number of household and non-household members traveling together on a trip.

**Trip**

Roundtrip travel to a destination at least 100 miles from home. The following types of trips are excluded: 1) travel as part of an operating crew on a train, airplane, truck, bus, or ship; 2) regular commuting to work or school; 3) one-way trips to move to a new destination; 4) trips by members of the Armed Forces while on active duty.

**Vacation trip**

Any trip reported as a vacation trip by survey respondents.

**Weekend trip**

Each trip was classified as either a weekend trip or not a weekend trip. Travelers who stay one or two nights away including a Friday and/or Saturday night are defined as regular weekend travelers. Those who stay three to five nights away including a Friday or Saturday night stay are defined as long-weekend travelers. ▼

**TABLE 1 Household Travel in the United States by Selected Trip Characteristics: 1995**  
*numbers are in thousands*

Trip characteristics	BUSINESS		VISIT FRIENDS AND RELATIVES		LEISURE		PERSONAL BUSINESS		TOTAL	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Household trips	192,537	100.0	195,468	100.0	177,119	100.0	91,319	100.0	656,462	100.0
<b>Principal means of transportation</b>										
Personal-use vehicle	125,036	64.9	159,981	81.8	145,590	82.2	74,532	81.6	505,154	77.0
Airplane	64,579	33.5	31,059	15.9	21,813	12.3	11,711	12.8	129,164	19.7
Commercial airplane	61,911	32.2	30,651	15.7	20,883	11.8	11,437	12.5	124,884	19.0
Bus	1,515	0.8	2,681	1.4	8,717	4.9	4,425	4.8	17,340	2.6
Intercity bus	181	0.1	1,693	0.9	522	0.3	359	0.4	2,755	0.4
Charter or tour bus	1,149	0.6	986	0.5	7,611	4.3	2,143	2.3	11,890	1.8
Train	1,252	0.7	1,711	0.9	641	0.4	596	0.7	4,200	0.6
Ship, boat, or ferry	60	0.0	29	0.0	287	0.2	15	0.0	391	0.1
Other	95	0.0	7	0.0	70	0.0	40	0.0	213	0.0
<b>Roundtrip distance</b>										
Less than 300 miles	55,286	28.7	54,250	27.8	52,931	29.9	31,534	34.5	194,006	29.6
300 to 499 miles	45,221	23.5	53,566	27.4	51,307	29.0	24,378	26.7	174,477	26.6
500 to 999 miles	40,330	20.9	44,199	22.6	37,949	21.4	17,737	19.4	140,222	21.4
1,000 to 1,999 miles	26,958	14.0	22,557	11.5	16,932	9.6	9,772	10.7	76,221	11.6
2,000 miles or more	24,742	12.9	20,895	10.7	18,000	10.2	7,898	8.6	71,536	10.9
Mean (miles)	964		858		823		776		868	
Median (miles)	470		448		416		402		438	
<b>Calendar quarter</b>										
1st quarter	48,589	25.2	35,581	18.2	29,073	16.4	17,715	19.4	130,963	19.9
2nd quarter	50,167	26.1	45,915	23.5	45,960	25.9	26,614	29.1	168,669	25.7
3rd quarter	49,535	25.7	53,311	27.3	64,191	36.2	26,874	29.4	193,913	29.5
4th quarter	44,245	23.0	60,661	31.0	37,895	21.4	20,116	22.0	162,917	24.8
<b>Vacation or weekend trips</b>										
Vacation trip	12,498	6.5	129,933	66.5	139,675	78.9	19,084	20.9	301,197	45.9
Weekend trip	51,401	26.7	102,385	52.4	82,870	46.8	33,574	36.8	270,231	41.2
1 or 2 nights										
away from home	25,247	13.1	58,570	30.0	47,849	27.0	19,712	21.6	151,377	23.1
3 to 5 nights										
away from home	26,155	13.6	43,815	22.4	35,022	19.8	13,862	15.2	118,854	18.1

(continued)

TABLE 1 (continued)

Trip characteristics	BUSINESS		VISIT FRIENDS AND RELATIVES		LEISURE		PERSONAL BUSINESS		TOTAL	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Travel party type</b>										
One adult, no children under 18	164,888	85.6	96,056	49.1	80,139	45.2	45,386	49.7	386,479	58.9
Two or more adults, no children under 18	20,076	10.4	52,159	26.7	55,723	31.5	27,188	29.8	155,147	23.6
One adult, children under 18	2,144	1.1	12,612	6.5	9,155	5.2	5,521	6.0	29,436	4.5
Two or more adults, children under 18	4,383	2.3	27,883	14.3	25,388	14.3	8,428	9.2	66,086	10.1
No adult, one or more children under 18	1,047	0.5	6,757	3.5	6,714	3.8	4,795	5.3	19,313	2.9
<b>Nights away from home</b>										
None	62,887	32.7	28,038	14.3	40,554	22.9	32,538	35.6	164,032	25.0
1 to 3 nights	87,109	45.2	107,510	55.0	89,087	50.3	37,520	41.1	321,227	48.9
4 to 7 nights	32,262	16.8	40,043	20.5	35,271	19.9	13,702	15.0	121,279	18.5
8 or more nights	10,278	5.3	19,877	10.2	12,206	6.9	7,559	8.3	49,924	7.6
Mean excluding none (nights)	3.96		4.37		4.27		6.15		4.45	
<b>Type of lodging at destination</b>										
Total overnight trips	127,658	100.0	166,193	100.0	134,808	100.0	57,644	100.0	486,304	100.0
Friend's or relative's home	16,048	8.3	144,276	73.8	23,623	13.3	27,885	30.5	211,832	32.3
Hotel, motel, or resort	98,839	51.3	15,218	7.8	67,331	38.0	19,873	21.8	201,264	30.7
Rented cabin, condo, or vacation home	2,432	1.3	1,887	1.0	11,644	6.6	1,645	1.8	17,607	2.7
Owned cabin, condo, or vacation home	2,209	1.1	1,968	1.0	13,854	7.8	2,174	2.4	20,205	3.1
Camper, trailer, recreational vehicle, tent	1,115	0.6	1,247	0.6	9,003	5.1	580	0.6	11,944	1.8
Other type of lodging	7,015	3.6	1,597	0.8	9,353	5.3	5,487	6.0	23,452	3.6
<b>Travel party size</b>										
One	122,332	63.5	68,169	34.9	25,346	14.3	27,456	30.1	243,305	37.1
Two	40,589	21.1	65,923	33.7	66,111	37.3	32,109	35.2	204,742	31.2
3 to 6	24,830	12.9	59,294	30.3	70,366	39.7	25,633	28.1	180,129	27.4
7 or more	4,070	2.1	1,061	0.5	15,295	8.6	5,414	5.9	23,238	3.5
Mean travel party size	1.90		2.27		3.86		3.31		2.74	

**Notes**

Trips of 100 miles or more, one way. United States destinations only. Data are based on a sample and subject to sampling variability; see text. For definitions of terms and meanings of symbols, see text.

TABLE 2 Pleasure Travel in the United States by Selected Trip Characteristics: 1995

Trip characteristics	HOUSEHOLD TRIPS (thousands)		PERSON-TRIPS (thousands)		PERSON-MILES (millions)		PERSONAL-USE VEHICLE TRIPS (thousands)		PERSONAL-USE VEHICLE MILES (millions)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
TOTAL	177,119	100.0	299,355	100.0	244,681	100.0	145,590	100.0	84,982	100.0
<b>Principal means of transportation</b>										
Personal-use vehicle	145,590	82.2	254,186	84.9	148,548	60.7	145,590	100.0	84,982	100.0
Airplane	21,813	12.3	33,064	11.0	86,936	35.5	NA	NA	NA	NA
Commercial airplane	20,883	11.8	31,581	10.5	83,695	34.2	NA	NA	NA	NA
Bus	8,717	4.9	10,589	3.5	6,276	2.6	NA	NA	NA	NA
Intercity bus	522	0.3	690	0.2	301	0.1	NA	NA	NA	NA
Charter or tour bus	7,611	4.3	9,253	3.1	5,695	2.3	NA	NA	NA	NA
Train	641	0.4	944	0.3	993	0.4	NA	NA	NA	NA
Ship, boat, or ferry	287	0.2	483	0.2	1,773	0.7	NA	NA	NA	NA
Other	70	0.0	90	0.0	154	0.1	NA	NA	NA	NA
<b>Roundtrip distance</b>										
Less than 300 miles	52,931	29.9	91,529	30.6	22,330	9.1	49,549	34.0	12,117	14.3
300 to 499 miles	51,307	29.0	87,249	29.1	33,560	13.7	47,153	32.4	18,124	21.3
500 to 999 miles	37,949	21.4	63,541	21.2	42,813	17.5	32,257	22.2	21,514	25.3
1,000 to 1,999 miles	16,932	9.6	28,043	9.4	39,685	16.2	10,624	7.3	14,513	17.1
2,000 miles or more	18,000	10.2	28,994	9.7	106,294	43.4	6,008	4.1	18,715	22.0
Mean (miles)	823		817				584			
Median (miles)	416		410				374			
<b>Calendar quarter</b>										
1st quarter	29,073	16.4	49,365	16.5	41,158	16.8	23,000	15.8	12,852	15.1
2nd quarter	45,960	25.9	76,869	25.7	61,607	25.2	37,783	26.0	21,646	25.5
3rd quarter	64,191	36.2	114,643	38.3	93,516	38.2	54,886	37.7	34,053	40.1
4th quarter	37,895	21.4	58,477	19.5	48,399	19.8	29,921	20.6	16,432	19.3
<b>Vacation or weekend trips</b>										
Vacation trip	139,675	78.9	240,673	80.4	216,247	88.4	113,723	78.1	71,421	84.0
Weekend trip	82,870	46.8	142,288	47.5	98,411	40.2	71,043	48.8	38,003	44.7
1 or 2 nights away from home	47,849	27.0	81,781	27.3	40,949	16.7	43,767	30.1	19,863	23.4
3 to 5 nights away from home	35,022	19.8	60,508	20.2	57,462	23.5	27,277	18.7	18,141	21.3
<b>Travel party type</b>										
One adult, no children under 18	80,139	45.2	80,143	26.8	66,876	27.3	62,410	42.9	35,122	41.3
Two or more adults, no children under 18	55,723	31.5	106,044	35.4	93,899	38.4	47,161	32.4	28,923	34.0
One adult, children under 18	9,155	5.2	20,798	6.9	14,179	5.8	7,886	5.4	4,215	5.0
Two or more adults, children under 18	25,388	14.3	85,085	28.4	63,403	25.9	23,149	15.9	13,339	15.7
No adult, one or more children under 18	6,714	3.8	7,285	2.4	6,323	2.6	4,984	3.4	3,383	4.0

(continued)

TABLE 2 (continued)

Trip characteristics	HOUSEHOLD TRIPS (thousands)		PERSON-TRIPS (thousands)		PERSON-MILES (millions)		PERSONAL-USE VEHICLE TRIPS (thousands)		PERSON-USE VEHICLE MILES (millions)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Nights away from home</b>										
None	40,554	22.9	65,769	22.0	28,848	11.8	34,530	23.7	12,940	15.2
1 to 3 nights	89,087	50.3	151,579	50.6	93,073	38.0	78,224	53.7	40,161	47.3
4 to 7 nights	35,271	19.9	60,872	20.3	78,889	32.2	24,537	16.9	19,800	23.3
8 or more nights	12,206	6.9	21,134	7.1	43,871	17.9	8,299	5.7	12,081	14.2
Mean excluding none (nights)	4.27		4.26				3.97			
<b>Type of lodging at destination</b>										
Total overnight trips	134,808	100.0	230,607	100.0	211,504	100.0	109,660	100.0	70,697	100.0
Friend's or relative's home	23,623	13.3	36,627	12.2	29,581	12.1	20,038	13.8	11,990	14.1
Hotel, motel, or resort	67,331	38.0	111,868	37.4	117,976	48.2	49,968	34.3	33,744	39.7
Rented cabin, condo, or vacation home	11,644	6.6	21,948	7.3	22,703	9.3	9,915	6.8	7,416	8.7
Owned cabin, condo, or vacation home	13,854	7.8	27,694	9.3	17,822	7.3	12,615	8.7	6,726	7.9
Camper, trailer, recreational vehicle, tent	9,003	5.1	17,391	5.8	11,874	4.9	8,853	6.1	5,937	7.0
Other type of lodging	9,353	5.3	15,079	5.0	11,548	4.7	8,271	5.7	4,884	5.7
<b>Travel party size</b>										
One	25,346	14.3	25,347	8.5	25,346	10.4	18,581	12.8	10,142	11.9
Two	66,111	37.3	101,395	33.9	66,111	27.0	55,962	38.4	32,483	38.2
3 to 6	70,366	39.7	148,228	49.5	70,366	28.8	62,592	43.0	37,046	43.6
7 or more	15,295	8.6	24,385	8.1	12,692	5.2	8,455	5.8	5,311	6.2
Mean travel party size	3.86		3.91				3.31			

**Key**

NA = not applicable.

**Notes**

Trips of 100 miles or more, one way. United States destinations only. Data are based on a sample and subject to sampling variability; see text. For definitions of terms and meanings of symbols, see text.

**TABLE 3 Person Trips by Leisure Purpose: 1995**  
*numbers are in thousands*

Trip characteristics	BUSINESS		VISIT FRIENDS AND RELATIVES		LEISURE		PERSONAL BUSINESS		TOTAL	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
All person-trips	224,835	100.0	330,755	100.0	299,355	100.0	146,338	100.0	1,001,319	100.0
<b>Age and sex</b>										
<b>Total</b>	224,835	100.0	330,755	100.0	299,355	100.0	146,338	100.0	1,001,319	100.0
Under 18 years	10,854	4.8	67,388	20.4	56,505	18.9	25,020	17.1	159,779	16.0
18 to 24 years	11,005	4.9	36,647	11.1	27,547	9.2	16,930	11.6	92,129	9.2
25 to 29 years	16,882	7.5	32,520	9.8	22,294	7.4	8,362	5.7	80,060	8.0
30 to 39 years	58,481	26.0	56,578	17.1	52,772	17.6	22,073	15.1	189,917	19.0
40 to 49 years	66,699	29.7	47,826	14.5	57,093	19.1	28,369	19.4	199,991	20.0
50 to 59 years	37,967	16.9	39,005	11.8	39,859	13.3	21,008	14.4	137,841	13.8
60 to 64 years	10,529	4.7	15,306	4.6	15,518	5.2	7,329	5.0	48,683	4.9
65 years and over	12,417	5.5	35,486	10.7	27,767	9.3	17,247	11.8	92,919	9.3
Median (years)	42	NA	34	NA	38	NA	40	NA	38	NA
<b>Female</b>	67,432	30.0	170,735	51.6	139,776	46.7	72,544	49.6	450,512	45.0
Under 18 years	5,742	2.6	34,018	10.3	27,086	9.0	12,727	8.7	79,580	7.9
18 to 24 years	3,426	1.5	19,097	5.8	11,902	4.0	8,317	5.7	42,743	4.3
25 to 29 years	5,470	2.4	16,581	5.0	10,305	3.4	4,064	2.8	36,422	3.6
30 to 39 years	17,317	7.7	28,964	8.8	24,959	8.3	11,220	7.7	82,471	8.2
40 to 49 years	17,414	7.7	25,826	7.8	26,847	9.0	14,047	9.6	84,135	8.4
50 to 59 years	10,627	4.7	20,162	6.1	18,430	6.2	10,500	7.2	59,721	6.0
60 to 64 years	2,784	1.2	7,686	2.3	7,479	2.5	3,361	2.3	21,310	2.1
65 years and over	4,652	2.1	18,401	5.6	12,768	4.3	8,307	5.7	44,129	4.4
Median (years)	40	NA	35	NA	38	NA	39	NA	37	NA
<b>Race and origin</b>										
Hispanic	3,058	4.7	1,190	4.9	1,668	4.2	2,009	5.4	449	4.3
White Non-Hispanic	54,965	84.5	20,633	85.0	36,289	91.0	31,337	83.7	8,804	84.1
Black Non-Hispanic	4,993	7.7	1,256	5.2	1,095	2.7	2,433	6.5	517	4.9
Asian Non-Hispanic	1,380	2.1	833	3.4	397	1.0	1,249	3.3	256	2.4
<b>Household income</b>										
Less than \$25,000	24,103	10.7	67,798	20.5	36,287	12.1	27,359	18.7	155,555	15.5
\$25,000 to \$39,999	38,315	17.0	72,558	21.9	55,917	18.7	34,166	23.3	200,981	20.1
\$40,000 to \$49,999	35,945	16.0	54,487	16.5	50,689	16.9	25,576	17.5	166,699	16.6
\$50,000 to \$59,999	32,319	14.4	47,411	14.3	44,579	14.9	19,638	13.4	143,946	14.4
\$60,000 to \$74,999	32,882	14.6	39,121	11.8	45,226	15.1	17,118	11.7	134,348	13.4
\$75,000 to \$99,999	30,123	13.4	28,083	8.5	34,128	11.4	12,364	8.4	104,698	10.5
\$100,000 or more	31,148	13.9	21,298	6.4	32,530	10.9	10,117	6.9	95,092	9.5

(continued)

TABLE 3 (continued)

Trip characteristics	BUSINESS		VISIT FRIENDS AND RELATIVES		LEISURE		PERSONAL BUSINESS		TOTAL	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Household type</b>										
Family household	186,310	82.9	271,075	82.0	256,164	85.6	126,855	86.7	840,438	83.9
Married-couple family household	168,915	75.1	224,796	68.0	223,655	74.7	109,589	74.9	726,982	72.6
With children										
under 18 years	86,092	38.3	118,559	35.8	120,060	40.1	54,409	37.2	379,139	37.9
Female householder	10,279	4.6	32,194	9.7	21,497	7.2	12,965	8.9	76,942	7.7
With children under 18 years	5,029	2.2	19,349	5.8	11,831	4.0	7,176	4.9	43,389	4.3
Male householder	7,115	3.2	14,086	4.3	11,013	3.7	4,301	2.9	36,515	3.6
With children under 18 years	2,236	1.0	4,743	1.4	4,275	1.4	1,972	1.3	13,226	1.3
Nonfamily household	38,526	17.1	59,680	18.0	43,190	14.4	19,483	13.3	160,881	16.1
<b>Educational attainment</b>										
Total persons 16 years and over	215,246	100.0	268,921	100.0	249,638	100.0	125,798	100.0	859,629	100.0
Less than high school graduate	8,174	3.8	25,155	9.4	19,552	8.0	15,440	12.0	68,338	7.9
High school graduate	43,467	20.2	70,404	26.2	69,730	27.9	35,946	28.6	219,549	25.5
Some college, no degree	38,905	18.1	60,100	22.3	55,431	22.2	27,706	22.0	182,146	21.2
Associate's degree	15,516	7.2	17,801	6.6	17,190	6.9	7,924	6.3	58,431	6.8
Bachelor's degree	60,350	28.0	59,235	22.0	52,144	20.9	21,921	17.4	193,651	22.5
Some grad school or grad degree	48,833	22.7	36,226	13.5	35,591	14.3	16,862	13.4	137,513	16.0
<b>Activity status</b>										
Total persons 16 years and over	215,246	100.0	268,921	100.0	249,638	100.0	125,798	100.0	859,629	100.0
Working full time	177,361	82.4	151,675	56.4	154,936	62.1	63,250	50.3	547,232	63.7
Retired	10,148	4.7	36,331	13.5	30,568	12.2	17,991	14.3	95,039	11.1
Other	27,736	12.9	80,914	30.1	64,134	25.7	44,557	35.4	217,357	25.3

**Key**

NA = not applicable.

**Notes**

Trips of 100 miles or more, one way. Excludes travel outside the United States. Data are based on a sample and subject to sampling variability; see documentation. For definitions of terms, see text.

**TABLE 4 Pleasure Travel in the United States by Selected Trip Characteristics: 1995**  
*numbers are in thousands*

Trip characteristics	REST OR RELAXATION		SIGHTSEEING		OUTDOOR RECREATION		ENTERTAINMENT		SHOPPING	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
TOTAL	65,017	100.0	24,272	100.0	39,899	100.0	37,456	100.0	10,474	100.0
<b>Principal means of transportation</b>										
Personal-use vehicle	53,780	82.7	18,069	74.4	35,987	90.2	27,920	74.5	9,834	93.9
Airplane	9,253	14.2	4,297	17.7	2,927	7.3	5,053	13.5	283	2.7
Commercial airplane	8,928	13.7	4,188	17.3	2,608	6.5	4,898	13.1	262	2.5
Bus	1,596	2.5	1,547	6.4	896	2.2	4,337	11.6	341	3.3
Intercity bus	163	0.3	42	0.2	34	0.1	270	0.7	12	0.1
Charter or tour bus	1,374	2.1	1,462	6.0	580	1.5	3,870	10.3	325	3.1
Train	184	0.3	296	1.2	27	0.1	120	0.3	14	0.1
Ship, boat, or ferry	197	0.3	57	0.2	28	0.1	5	0.0	0	0.0
Other	7	0.0	7	0.0	33	0.1	22	0.1	1	0.0
<b>Roundtrip distance</b>										
Less than 300 miles	17,334	26.7	4,925	20.3	12,115	30.4	12,050	32.2	6,507	62.1
300 to 499 miles	18,934	29.1	5,881	24.2	13,542	33.9	10,208	27.3	2,743	26.2
500 to 999 miles	13,810	21.2	5,579	23.0	8,480	21.3	9,109	24.3	971	9.3
1,000 to 1,999 miles	6,706	10.3	3,589	14.8	3,439	8.6	3,038	8.1	160	1.5
2,000 miles or more	8,233	12.7	4,299	17.7	2,324	5.8	3,051	8.1	93	0.9
Mean (miles)	902		1,197		662		746		362	
Median (miles)	440		580		396		412		268	
<b>Calendar quarter</b>										
1st quarter	11,061	17.0	2,587	10.7	7,232	18.1	6,396	17.1	1,797	17.2
2nd quarter	17,943	27.6	6,290	25.9	9,998	25.1	9,430	25.2	2,299	21.9
3rd quarter	24,906	38.3	10,220	42.1	14,147	35.5	12,365	33.0	2,554	24.4
4th quarter	11,107	17.1	5,176	21.3	8,521	21.4	9,266	24.7	3,825	36.5
<b>Vacation or weekend trips</b>										
Vacation trip	56,688	87.2	21,240	87.5	31,775	79.6	26,261	70.1	3,711	35.4
Weekend trip	33,697	51.8	9,566	39.4	21,275	53.3	16,215	43.3	2,118	20.2
1 or 2 nights away from home	18,404	28.3	5,023	20.7	12,362	31.0	10,369	27.7	1,691	16.1
3 to 5 nights away from home	15,293	23.5	4,543	18.7	8,913	22.3	5,846	15.6	427	4.1

(continued)



TABLE 4 (continued)

Trip characteristics	REST OR RELAXATION		SIGHTSEEING		OUTDOOR RECREATION		ENTERTAINMENT		SHOPPING	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Travel party type</b>										
One adult, no children under 18	27,000	41.5	9,252	38.1	20,201	50.6	18,689	49.9	4,996	47.7
Two or more adults, no children under 18	23,465	36.1	8,732	36.0	8,931	22.4	11,301	30.2	3,294	31.5
One adult, children under 18	2,659	4.1	1,475	6.1	2,516	6.3	1,724	4.6	781	7.5
Two or more adults, children under 18	10,191	15.7	3,890	16.0	5,873	14.7	4,170	11.1	1,265	12.1
No adult, one or more children under 18	1,702	2.6	923	3.8	2,378	6.0	1,572	4.2	138	1.3
<b>Nights away from home</b>										
None	7,078	10.9	6,241	25.7	7,533	18.9	12,441	33.2	7,261	69.3
1 to 3 nights	33,998	52.3	10,841	44.7	21,885	54.9	19,375	51.7	2,989	28.5
4 to 7 nights	16,898	26.0	5,189	21.4	8,200	20.6	4,785	12.8	200	1.9
8 or more nights	7,044	10.8	2,002	8.2	2,281	5.7	855	2.3	25	0.2
Mean excluding none (nights)	5.43		4.16		3.63		2.76		1.98	
<b>Type of lodging at destination</b>										
Total overnight trips	57,531	100.0	17,420	100.0	32,025	100.0	24,712	100.0	3,119	100.0
Friend's or relative's home	13,148	20.2	1,665	6.9	4,769	12.0	3,248	8.7	793	7.6
Hotel, motel, or resort	22,301	34.3	13,274	54.7	10,619	26.6	18,916	50.5	2,220	21.2
Rented cabin, condo, or vacation home	6,691	10.3	745	3.1	3,898	9.8	272	0.7	38	0.4
Owned cabin, condo, or vacation home	9,984	15.4	292	1.2	3,304	8.3	239	0.6	34	0.3
Camper, trailer, recreational vehicle, tent	3,004	4.6	755	3.1	4,422	11.1	795	2.1	27	0.3
Other type of lodging	2,403	3.7	689	2.8	5,013	12.6	1,242	3.3	7	0.1
<b>Travel party size</b>										
One	10,718	16.5	2,347	9.7	6,098	15.3	4,705	12.6	1,477	14.1
Two	26,334	40.5	8,858	36.5	12,926	32.4	13,380	35.7	4,613	44.0
3 to 6	23,733	36.5	10,728	44.2	17,067	42.8	14,874	39.7	3,963	37.8
7 or more	4,232	6.5	2,339	9.6	3,807	9.5	4,496	12.0	421	4.0
Mean travel party size	3.33		4.36		3.81		4.70		3.15	

**Notes**

Trips of 100 miles or more, one way. United States destinations only. Data are based on a sample and subject to sampling variability; see text. For definitions of terms and meanings of symbols, see text.

**TABLE 5 Person Trips by Leisure Purpose: 1995**  
*numbers are in thousands*

Trip characteristics	REST OR RELAXATION		SIGHTSEEING		OUTDOOR RECREATION		ENTERTAINMENT		SHOPPING	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
All person trips	115,154	100.0	42,649	100.0	65,418	100.0	58,757	100.0	17,376	100.0
<b>Age and sex</b>										
<b>Total</b>	115,154	100.0	42,649	100.0	65,418	100.0	58,757	100.0	17,376	100.0
Under 18 years	20,911	18.2	8,780	20.6	14,673	22.4	9,318	15.9	2,823	16.2
18 to 24 years	10,654	9.3	2,956	6.9	5,647	8.6	6,818	11.6	1,472	8.5
25 to 29 years	8,247	7.2	2,743	6.4	5,685	8.7	4,405	7.5	1,215	7.0
30 to 39 years	20,338	17.7	7,185	16.8	13,021	19.9	9,546	16.2	2,682	15.4
40 to 49 years	21,518	18.7	7,460	17.5	13,557	20.7	10,822	18.4	3,736	21.5
50 to 59 years	16,498	14.3	5,843	13.7	7,129	10.9	7,641	13.0	2,748	15.8
60 to 64 years	6,803	5.9	2,372	5.6	2,495	3.8	2,816	4.8	1,033	5.9
65 years and over	10,186	8.8	5,312	12.5	3,211	4.9	7,392	12.6	1,666	9.6
Median (years)	38	NA	39	NA	35	NA	39	NA	41	NA
<b>Female</b>	56,458	49.0	21,378	50.1	23,564	36.0	27,959	47.6	10,417	60.0
Under 18 years	11,011	9.6	4,291	10.1	6,006	9.2	4,180	7.1	1,598	9.2
18 to 24 years	4,475	3.9	1,380	3.2	1,833	2.8	3,227	5.5	988	5.7
25 to 29 years	4,395	3.8	1,410	3.3	1,888	2.9	1,882	3.2	731	4.2
30 to 39 years	9,891	8.6	3,499	8.2	5,015	7.7	4,873	8.3	1,681	9.7
40 to 49 years	10,989	9.5	3,758	8.8	4,643	7.1	5,130	8.7	2,327	13.4
50 to 59 years	7,968	6.9	3,038	7.1	2,416	3.7	3,478	5.9	1,529	8.8
60 to 64 years	3,274	2.8	1,214	2.8	725	1.1	1,667	2.8	599	3.4
65 years and over	4,455	3.9	2,788	6.5	1,039	1.6	3,523	6.0	963	5.5
Median (years)	38	NA	40	NA	34	NA	39	NA	40	NA
<b>Race and origin</b>										
Hispanic	6,123	3.2	19,255	5.2	10,881	5.6	8,373	4.7	4,358	4.8
White Non-Hispanic	173,194	90.0	316,248	84.9	164,220	84.0	152,028	85.8	77,915	85.3
Black Non-Hispanic	7,493	3.9	24,553	6.6	14,259	7.3	10,294	5.8	6,190	6.8
Asian Non-Hispanic	3,435	1.8	8,278	2.2	4,163	2.1	4,115	2.3	1,742	1.9
<b>Household income</b>										
Less than \$25,000	12,343	10.7	6,074	14.2	5,347	8.2	9,388	16.0	3,135	18.0
\$25,000 to \$39,999	19,203	16.7	8,841	20.7	10,941	16.7	12,411	21.1	4,520	26.0
\$40,000 to \$49,999	18,811	16.3	6,901	16.2	12,010	18.4	9,587	16.3	3,380	19.5
\$50,000 to \$59,999	16,871	14.7	6,815	16.0	10,322	15.8	8,462	14.4	2,109	12.1
\$60,000 to \$74,999	18,924	16.4	6,325	14.8	10,747	16.4	7,454	12.7	1,776	10.2
\$75,000 to \$99,999	14,684	12.8	3,983	9.3	7,885	12.1	6,093	10.4	1,483	8.5
\$100,000 or more	14,318	12.4	3,710	8.7	8,166	12.5	5,362	9.1	973	5.6

(continued)

TABLE 5 (continued)

Trip characteristics	REST OR RELAXATION		SIGHTSEEING		OUTDOOR RECREATION		ENTERTAINMENT		SHOPPING	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Household type</b>										
Family household	99,573	86.5	36,208	84.9	56,898	87.0	48,426	82.4	15,058	86.7
Married-couple family household	87,646	76.1	31,219	73.2	50,763	77.6	40,784	69.4	13,243	76.2
With children under 18 years	44,278	38.5	16,358	38.4	31,177	47.7	21,294	36.2	6,952	40.0
Female householder	7,584	6.6	3,534	8.3	3,613	5.5	5,366	9.1	1,399	8.1
With children under 18 years	4,306	3.7	1,944	4.6	2,028	3.1	2,616	4.5	936	5.4
Male householder	4,343	3.8	1,456	3.4	2,522	3.9	2,276	3.9	416	2.4
With children under 18 years	885	0.8	851	2.0	1,519	2.3	870	1.5	150	0.9
Nonfamily household	15,581	13.5	6,441	15.1	8,520	13.0	10,331	17.6	2,317	13.3
<b>Educational attainment</b>										
Total persons 16 years and over	96,388	100.0	34,595	100.0	52,868	100.0	50,804	100.0	14,983	100.0
Less than high school graduate	6,443	6.7	2,559	7.4	4,303	8.0	5,000	10.0	1,247	8.3
High school graduate	25,716	26.7	9,179	26.5	14,044	26.6	16,211	31.9	4,581	30.6
Some college, no degree	21,507	22.3	6,962	20.1	11,764	22.3	11,484	22.6	3,713	24.8
Associate's degree	7,323	7.6	2,499	7.2	3,373	6.4	3,127	6.2	868	5.8
Bachelor's degree	21,074	21.9	7,733	22.4	11,677	22.1	8,968	17.7	2,691	18.0
Some grad school or graduate degree	14,325	14.9	5,662	16.4	7,706	14.6	6,014	11.8	1,883	12.6
<b>Activity status</b>										
Total persons 16 years and over	96,388	100.0	34,595	100.0	52,868	100.0	50,804	100.0	14,983	100.0
Working full time	61,099	63.4	19,849	57.4	35,953	68.0	29,143	57.4	8,893	59.4
Retired	11,283	11.7	5,514	15.9	4,344	8.2	7,824	15.4	1,603	10.7
Other	24,007	24.9	9,231	26.7	12,571	23.8	13,837	27.2	4,488	30.0

**Key**

NA = not applicable.

**Notes**

Trips of 100 miles or more, one way. Excludes travel outside the United States. Data are based on a sample and subject to sampling variability; see text. For definitions of terms, see text.

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The Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS), an operating administration of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), is a national statistical agency, DOT's representative on the Federal Geographic Data Committee, and the home of the National Transportation Library. BTS compiles, analyzes, and makes accessible information about the nation's transportation systems; collects information on various aspects of transportation; and enhances the quality and effectiveness of the Department's statistical programs through research, the development of guidelines, and the promotion of improvements in data acquisition and use.

#### About the American Travel Survey

The American Travel Survey (ATS) collected information on long-distance travel from approximately 65,000 U.S. households in 1995. Long-distance travel is defined as a roundtrip to a destination at least 100 miles from the home. The ATS provides data on a variety of trip and traveler characteristics in America, including the trip purpose, the means of transportation, the trip origin and destination, the dates of departure and return, and the social and demographic characteristics of travelers and non-travelers.

The Leisure Travel Profile contains information on long-distance trips made for rest or relaxation, sightseeing, outdoor recreation, entertainment, and shopping. The profile is intended to give a sample of the kinds of data available from the ATS.

This report was written by Heather Contrino and William Mallett with assistance from Eugene Brown. For further information on this topic, please contact William Mallett at 202-366-6663.

For information about other BTS products and services, please contact the Bureau by any of the following:

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